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Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
NSAE-00 PA-01 SS-15 PRS-01 SP-02 TRSE-00 NSCE-00
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O R 021321Z DEC 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4857
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
USMISSION USNATO
USNMR SHAPE
USCINCEUR
AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
USAFE RAMSTEIN GE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 OSLO 5427

LONDON PLESE PASS AMBASSADOR LERNER

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, AWACS, MARR, NO
SUBJECT: DECEMBER DPC: NATO AWACS

REF: STATE 286270
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1. BEGIN SUMMARY: CHARGE MET MORNING DECEMBER 2 WITH MOD
UNDERSECRETARY HOLST ON LUNS' AWACS PROPOSAL. HOLST INDICTED
GON WOULD GIVE REPORT URGENT CONSIDERATION. HE REITERATED
CONTINUING GON CONCERNS WITH AWACS DEPLOYMENT AND OPERATIONAL
PLANS, RE-EMPHASIZING POTENTIAL POLITICAL SENSITIVITY IN
NORWAY OF THESE PLANS. END SUMMARY.

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2. CHARGE CALLED ON NORWEGIAN UNDERSECRETARY OF DEFENSE HOLST DECEMBER 2 TO DISCUSS LUNS' AWACS REPORT. CHARGE MADE POINTS IN PARA 10 REFTEL STRESSING THAT ALLIANCE IS ON THE THRESHOLD OF AN URGENTLY REQUIRED COOPERATIVE VENTURE (HE ALSO LEFT A "NON-PAPER" EMBODYING PARA 10 POINTS). CHARGE REVIEWED THE ELEMENTS OF LUNS' PROGRAM PROPOSAL PER PARA 7 REFTEL AND NOTED USG HOPE THAT LEADERS WOULD STRONGLY ENDORSE THE LUNS' REPORT WITH A VIEW TO PUTTING TOGETHER A FINAL PROPOSAL BY THE MAY MINISTERIAL MEETING. CHARGE ALSO NOTED USG IS AWARE OF CERTAIN ALLIED CONCERNS WITH FMS PROCEDURES AND WAS THEREFORE WORKING TO DEVELOP AN ALTERNATIVE TO THESE PROCEDURES. HE LEFT A SECOND "NON-PAPER" EMBODYING POINTS MADE IN SUBPARA A, 1-2 OF PARA 8 REFTEL.

3. CHARGE NOTED THAT THE MINISTER FACED AN IMMEDIATE DECISION INVOLVING A SMALL BUT IMPORTANT SYMBOLIC AMOUNT OF MONEY FOR R AND D FOR A COMMON COMPUTER. DRAWING ON INFORMATION IN PARA 2-6, CHARGE NOTED THAT LUNS IS SUGGESTING THAT MINOR SHARE NATIONS, SUCH AS NORWAY EACH CONTRIBUTE A TOKEN $50,000 TOWARDS COMPUTER R AND D FUNDING. USG HOPED THAT NORWAY WOULD UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF MOVING AHEAD WITH STANDARD-IZATION AND HOPED NORWAY WOULD COMMIT THIS SMALL BUT SYMBOLIC AMOUNT OF MONEY.

4. IN REPLY HOLST NOTED THAT NORWEGIAN MOD HAD NOT YET
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RECEIVED THE LUNS' REPORT AND SO HE COULD NOT GIVE ANY IMMEDIATE REACTION TO OUR PRESENTATION. HOWEVER, NORWEGIAN POLICY TOWARDS THE AWACS REMAINS GENERALLY FAVORABLE ESPECIALLY AS MANY NORWEGIAN CONCERNS WITH THE MARITIME SURVEILLANCE CAPABILITY AND ESM HAD BEEN SATIS-FACTORILY ADDRESSED URING HOLST'S RECENT VISIT TO US (STATE 269454).

5. IN RESPONSE TO CHARGE'S QUESTION, HOLST NOTED THAT NORWAY STILL HAD CONCERNS OVER HOW THE AWACS WOULD BE OPERATED AND DEPLOYED ON THE NORTHERN FLANK. HE STATED THAT HE KNEW A NAPO SURVEY TEAM HAD BEEN IN NORWAY THE PAST WEEK TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBLE USE OF NORWEGIAN AIR FIELDS BY THE AWACS (NAPO (ESD OL AIOO) NATO HQ BRUSSELS DTG R231410Z NOV 77). UNDERSECRETARY STRESSED THAT FROM THE NORWEGIAN SIDE THESE DISCUSSIONS WERE STILL NONCOMMITTAL AND WOULD REMAIN SO UNTIL THE GON HAD AVAILABLE FROM THE ALLIANCE DETAILS ON THE DEPLOYMENT AND OPERATIONS OF THE AWACS. HOLST STATED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO HAVE TECHNICAL LEVEL DISCUSSIONS AND "TECHNOLOGICAL IMPERATIVES" DRIVE THE ISSUE NOR DID HE WANT TECHNICAL DISCUSSIONS TO GET OUT AHEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT'S POLITICAL HANDLING OF AWACS.

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6. HOLST NOTED THAT THE GON FACED THE CONTINUING POLITICAL PROBLEM THAT NATO'S OPPONENTS HERE WOULD DOUBTLESSLY TRY TO PORTRAY AWACS OPERATIONS AS VIOLATION OF NORWAY'S LONGSTANDING BASE POLICY (WHICH PROHIBITS THE PEACE TIME STATIONING OF FOREIGN TROOPS ON NORWEGIAN SOIL). HOLST NOTED THAT THE PRESENT POLITICAL CLIMATE INVOLVES CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION ON THE LEFT OF NORWAY'S BASE POLICY, PRESTOCKAGE, WEST GERMAN PARTICIPATION IN NATO EXERCISES, ETC. IN THIS ENVIRONMENT IT WAS IMPORTANT THAT AWACS NOT BECOME "THE STRAW THAT BREAKS THE CAMEL'S BACK." FOR THAT REASON IT WAS IMPORTANT IN EXAMINING OPERATIONAL ALTERNATIVES FOR THE AWACS THAT ALL ALLIANCE AND NORWEGIAN SPOKESMEN AVOID USING THE TERM "BASE" IN CONNECTION WITH POSSIBLE AWACS
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OPERATIONS IN NORWAY. THIS IS WHY THE NORWEGIANS HAD INSISTED ON CALLING POSSIBLE AIR FIELDS SUPPORTING AWACS "FORWARD SERVICE STATIONS." TO GAIN BETTER POLITICAL CONTROL OVER THE GON'S HANDLING OF AWACS, AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL AWACS STEERING GROUP WILL SOON BE ESTABLISHED, CHAIRED BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE, WITH REPRESENTATIVES FROM OTHER CONCERNED MINISTRIES INCLUDING THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, HOLST SAID.

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 INR-07 L-03 ACDA-12
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O R 021321Z DEC 77
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TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4858
INFO SECDEF WASHDC
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AMEMBASSY BONN
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 OSLO 5427

LONDON PLESE PASS AMBASSADOR LERNER

7. IN REPLY THE CHARGE NOTED THAT OUR GOVERNMENT BELIEVED THAT AWACS HAD AN IMPORTANT ROLE TO PLAY IN ALLIANCE DEFENSE AND IN THE DEFENSE OF NORWAY. THE AWACS MEET A CRITICAL MILITARY REQUIREMENT TO COUNTER WARSAW PACT AIR CAPABILITIES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE US WAS AWARE OF THE POTENTIAL POLITICAL CONFIDENTIAL

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SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED, AND WANTED TO HELP GON SO TO MANAGE THESE THESE THAT AWACS COULD BE PUT TO USE IN UPGRADING ALLIANCE AND NORWEGIAN DEFENSE. CHARGE SUGGESTED THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT FOR THE GON TO CONTINUE AN INFORMAL AND FRANK EXCHANGE WITH US ON GON CONCERNS AS THE ALLIANCE CONSIDERATION OF AWACS MOVED INTO ITS CRITICAL PHASE. THIS WAY THE ALLIANCE PLANNERS COULD TAKE NORWEGIAN VIEWS INTO ACCOUNT DURING EARLY STAGES OF OPERATIONAL PLANNING, HOLST AGREED ON THE IMPORTANCE ON SUCH AN EXCHANGE AND SAID HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD WELCOME IT.

8. HOLST PHONED BACK LATER TO SAY THAT MOD HAD JUST RECEIVED A COPY OF THE LUNS' REPORT AND THAT THE GON WOULD SUPPORT THE REPORT'S RECOMMENDATIONS.

9. IN THE SAME CONVERSATION, CHARGE DREW TO HOLST'S ATTENTION A NORWEGIAN WIRE SERVICE REPORT OF DEC 2 IN WHICH MOD HANSEN APPARENTLY CONFIRMED THAT CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO THE POSSIBLE USE OF NORWEGIAN AIRFIELDS FOR AWACS. (ACCORDING TO THE REPORT, HANSEN SAID THAT HE DID NOT CONSIDER THE DESIGNATION OF SUCH "A SUPPORT BASE" FOR THE AIRCRAFT TO BE A VIOLATION OF NORWEGIAN BASE POLICY AND THAT HE WOULD ASSESS THE MATTER IN RELATIONSHIP TO NORWEGIAN DETENTE POLICY. CHARGE ALSO EXPRESSED VIEW THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE WISE TO LINK CONSIDERATIONS OF AWACS DIRECTLY TO DETENTE. THE AIRBORNE SYSTEM SHOULD NOT BE VIEWED AS A BARGAINING CHIP IN OUR RELATIONS WITH THE EAST. HOLST,

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WHO HAD NOT BEEN AWARE OF THE MINISTER'S STATEMENT, AGREED
AND SAID THAT HE DOUBTED THAT HANSEN HAD BEEN CORRECTLY QUOTED,
ESPECIALLY IN REGARD TO USE OF THE WORD "BASE."

10. COMMENT: WE SHOULD BEAR IN MIND THE POTENTIAL
POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES INVOLVED IN AWACS HERE. WE
URGE US AND ALLIANCE OFFICIALS TO AVOID THE USE OF THE
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WORDS "BASE" OR "BASING" IN RELATIONS TO AWACS PLANS FOR
NORWAY.
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Message Attributes

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